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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

RAOUL FLORENT

PHF 99,548

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Examiner:

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND SYSTEM, AND MEDICAL  
EXAMINATION APPARATUS, FOR EXTRACTING A PATH FOLLOWING A  
THREADLIKE STRUCTURE IN AN IMAGE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 1, delete the heading in its entirety and  
insert the centered heading:  
--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, before line 11, delete the heading in its entirety and  
insert the centered heading:  
--OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 3, line 20, delete the heading in its entirety.

005090-46E28560